




Sidewalk Maintenance

This activity applies to you if you have sidewalks. Litter accumulation on sidewalks can contribute suspended solids to stormwater runoff; runoff from sidewalks crossing driveways may also have hydrocarbon, oil and grease, and heavy metal contaminants. If weed killers are used on sidewalks, toxic pesticide compounds, oils, and heavy metals may also be introduced into stormwater. If crack sealants or surface coatings are applied, toxic hydrocarbons, oils and greases, and heavy metals may be contributed to stormwater runoff. Sidewalks and driveways are important areas to target for stormwater pollution control because they typically drain directly to stormwater conveyance facilities. Note that BMPs for driveways associated with parking lots are described under “Vehicle and Equipment Parking and Storage.”

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices are required if you are engaged in sidewalk maintenance:

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 1 Sweep sidewalks as needed or at least once a month to collect loose dirt and debris rather than pushing it into the street or gutter or hosing it down. Collected materials must be disposed of as regular garbage.
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 2 Conduct spot stain removal instead of washing entire sidewalk. Do not use soaps and detergents to wash down sidewalks.
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 3 If pressure washing of sidewalks is needed, washwater must be collected and disposed of to the sanitary sewer or, taken off site for appropriate disposal if cleaners or soaps are used. If only water is used, filtering devices at catch basins must be used to collect all solids and debris.

Additional BMPs

The following BMPs are not required, but they can provide improved pollution control:



Use deicing salts and sands only when snow or ice is present (not as a preventive measure) and apply sparingly. Shoveling of snow is always preferred to dumping excessive amounts of deicing materials in an effort to avoid shoveling. If deicing salts are used, the residues and remaining granules should be swept up when the snow and ice has melted, and reused or disposed of in your garbage.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Stormwater Services Section at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.